

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15024 281843Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----071877 281850Z /42
O 281826Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3681
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15024

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: SAKHAROV SEES PENTECOSTAL FAMILY IN EMBASSY

REF: MOSCOW 14858

SUMMARY: DESPITE SUGGESTION FROM SAKHAROV THAT
PENTECOSTAL FAMILY DEPART EMBASSY AFTER OBTAINING
WIDEST POSSIBLE WESTERN PUBLICITY FOR THEIR CAUSE,
FAMILY REITERATED ITS BASIC DEMANDS AND CONTINUES
TO REFUSE TO LEAVE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING VISIT TO EMBASSY JUNE 28 ON OTHER MATTERS
(REPORTED SEPTTEL), ANDREI SAKHAROV REMARKED THAT
HE WAS AWARE FROM WESTERN RADIO BROADCASTS THAT
TWO RUSSIAN PENTECOSTAL FAMILIES (VASHCHENKO AND
CHMYKHALOVA) WERE IN EMBASSY AND HAD NOTICED THEM
AS HE WALKED THROUGH CONSULAR WAITING ROOM. IN
RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, CONSOFF GAVE HIM BRIEF,
FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF SITUATION AND ASKED WHETHER
SAKHAROV WOULD CONSIDER ADVISING THEM TO LEAVE
EMBASSY, SINCE SITUATION FOR THEM LIKELY TO BE MORE
DIFFICULT THE LONGER THEY STAYED. SAKHAROV REPLIED
THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15024 281843Z

2. HE ADDED THAT IN HIS VIEW BEST PENTECOSTALISTS
COULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE WAS WIDE PUBLICITY FOR THEIR
SITUATION AND THAT IF EMBASSY WOULD ARRANGE
PRESS CONFERENCE FAMILIES MIGHT BE PREPARED TO
LEAVE AFTERWARD. HE OFFERED TO ADVISE THIS COURSE
OF ACTION TO THEM. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WHILE

EMBASSY OF COURSE COULD NOT STOP CORRESPONDENTS FROM SPEAKING WITH PENTECOSTALISTS, IT COULD NOT APPROPRIATELY ARRANGE PRESS CONFERENCE OR PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH CORRESPONDENTS. SAKHAROV SPOKE WITH FAMILY BEFORE LEAVING, REMARKING AFTERWARD THAT FAMILY WAS EXTREMELY NAIVE ABOUT WHAT EMBASSY COULD DO FOR THEM AND THAT IN HIS VIEW WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY WAS ONLY WAY TO HELP THEM. HE SAID HE WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH CORRESPONDENTS WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

3. CONSOFF THEN SPOKE AGAIN WITH MR. VASHCHENKO, WHO REITERATED THAT FAMILY WOULD NOT LEAVE EMBASSY UNLESS (A) SON IS RETURNED TO THEM, (B) THEY RECEIVE ASSURANCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO REPRISALS AGAINST THEM, AND (C) THEY ARE GIVEN SOVIET EXIT VISAS. FAMILY REFUSED EVENING MEAL PREPARED FOR THEM BY EMBASSY FAMILY, SAYING THAT THEY ARE GOING TO FAST AND PRAY UNTIL THEIR NEEDS ARE MET. MR. VASHCHENKO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SPEAKING WITH WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND GIVING THEM DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE FAMILY'S PLIGHT FOR DISSEMINATION ABROAD IN HOPE THAT THIS WILL INFLUENCE SOVIETS. AS OF 8:00 P.M. JUNE 28, HE AND THE SIX OTHER PENTECOSTALISTS WERE PREPARING TO SPEND ANOTHER NIGHT IN THE CONSULAR SECTION. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 15024 281843Z

4. COMMENT: MR. VASHCHENKO FREQUENTLY QUOTES FROM BIBLE AND APPEARS TO HAVE EXTREMELY FIRMLY-HELD FUNDAMENTAL RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. HE REITERATED THAT IN 1975 HIS FIVE-MONTH OLD SON WAS TAKEN FROM FAMILY BY POLICE AND HE LATER RECEIVED PHONE CALL SAYING SON HAD DIED. ANOTHER SON IS IN PRISON FOR REFUSING TO OBEY DRAFT. EMBASSY BELIEVES THESE FACTORS HELP EXPLAIN VASHCHENKO'S TENACITY IN REFUSING TO LEAVE EMBASSY. TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW15024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-1043
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780612/aaaaakai.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df3a4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 14858
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2180213
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAKHAROV SEES PENTECOSTAL FAMILY IN EMBASSY
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR, (SAKHAROV, ANDREI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df3a4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014